

FIGS. 1-6, contemporaneous with this Response under separate cover. The substitute drawings address the Examiner's objections.

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS.

Please amend claim 1 to read as follows:

SUB Q1 / 1. (Amended) A masking apparatus for transferring an image to a working surface, comprising:

(a) a mask formed from a unitary and continuous substrate, the mask having an outer surface and an inner surface; said inner surface having an adhesive disposed thereon;

(b) a backing removably affixed to said mask at said inner surface;

(c) a plurality of designs formed in said mask;

B₁ (d) said mask adapted to be removably attached to said working surface at said inner surface; and

(e) wherein said mask is configured to be selectively dispensable in a generally longitudinal direction along the working surface to continuously cover and be affixedly adhered to an entire longitudinal portion of the working surface where the image is to be transferred regardless of the length of such working surface such that the apparatus does not have to be repeatedly applied after each use to achieve the image transfer along the working surface.

SUB Q2 / 6. A masking apparatus for transferring an image to a working surface, comprising:

B₂ (a) a mask formed from a unitary and continuous substrate, the mask having an outer surface and an inner surface; said inner surface having an adhesive disposed thereon and a backing removably affixed to said mask at said inner surface;

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cont

(b) said mask having a plurality of precut designs; said designs generally repeat along at least a portion of said mask to form a design pattern; [and]

(c) said mask adapted to be removably attached to said working surface at said inner surface;

(d) wherein said mask is configured to be selectively dispensable in a generally longitudinal direction along the working surface to continuously cover and be affixedly adhered to an entire longitudinal portion of the working surface where the image is to be transferred regardless of the length of such working surface such that the apparatus does not have to be repeatedly applied after each use to achieve the image transfer along the working surface.

C. REMARKS.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,722,120 to Bindschatel et al. The Examiner has also rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,460,087 to Ogorzalek. The Examiner has further rejected claims 2 and 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,460,087 to Ogorzalek, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,312,872 to Murphy et al. Finally, the Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,722,120 to Bindschatel et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,312,872 to Murphy et al.

None of the references cited by the Examiner, whether alone or combined with one another, teach or suggest the novel aspects of the present invention such as a mask formed from a unitary and continuous substrate material wherein the mask is adapted to be selectively dispensed and removable adhered in a generally longitudinal direction along a working surface of virtually any length.